

DPC Newsletter

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Update on Bulletin 160, the California Water Plan

The CA Dept. of Water Resources (DWR), mandated by law to update its water plan for the State every five years, has embarked on a fundamentally new approach and process. The *California Water Plan Update 2003* (Bulletin 160-03), will be California's strategy to meet the State's future water needs, integrating Statewide and local planning initiatives and other major programs, and will be prepared with significant input from stakeholders.

The engine driving this approach continues to be the 65-member public Advisory Committee, which meets regularly and is comprised of representatives from across the State. Two of the Commission's own members, Marci Coglianese (Mayor of Rio Vista) and Christopher Cabaldon (Mayor of West Sacramento), as well as its Executive Director, sit on this Committee. DWR also created the Extended Review Forum, which is open to everyone, to further invite input and share information through e-mails and public briefings.

The draft California Water Plan Update 2003 will be released to the public in early March 2004, with public hearings occurring in late Spring. Here's a brief summary of what you'll find in the plan:

- Water Portfolios—estimates of water supplies and uses for recent years using actual data.
- Regional reports—descriptions of conditions, challenges, responses, and planning efforts for the hydrologic regions in California (based on SB 672 (Machado))
- Multiple scenarios—consideration of several plausible "futures" to account for uncertainties and risk (not a single forecast)
- Diverse strategies—assessment of potential benefits, costs, implementation issues, and solutions for two dozen resource management strategies (using the 3 E's—economics, environment, equity)

To see the draft, as well as details and timelines for addressing the limitations of the planning process, go to the website: www.WaterPlan.water.ca.gov.

Mark Your Calendars!

- Delta Protection Commission Thursday, January 22, 2004, 6:30 p.m.
- DPC Agriculture Committee Thursday, January 29, 2004, 2-4 p.m.
- DPC CALFED Committee Wednesday, February 4, 2004, 2-4 p.m.

Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are held at the Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove. Please call (916) 776-2290 if you need directions.

Commission Seeks Input on EJ Policy

All State agencies are now required to have an Environmental Justice (EJ) policy. The Delta Protection Commission considered its draft policy at its November 20, 2003 meeting, and at that time it was suggested that the draft policy be posted on the Commission website, so that other agencies and interested parties could provide feedback before the Commission adopts it. The draft policy can be found at www.delta.ca.gov; it will come back before the Commission for approval at its May meeting. Staff would appreciate any feedback on the draft policy by May 3, 2004.

Commission To Consider Annual Reports

DPC Annual Report to the Legislature

Under the Delta Protection Act of 1992, the Commission is mandated to submit an annual report to the Legislature, describing the Commission's activities during the previous year, the status of the Commission's Regional Land Use Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta, and the effectiveness of that plan in carrying out the Commission's mission to preserve, enhance, and protect, in balance, the agricultural, recreational, and wildlife uses of the Delta.

The draft annual report for 2003, which will be considered by the Commission at its January 22, 2004 meeting, contains information on the Commission's activities in 2003. This draft document is available from the Commission's website, www.delta.ca.gov, under the January 2004 meeting link, as is the draft staff report on lands and easements acquired in the Delta Primary Zone in 2003. Once the Commission makes any changes and approves the annual report, it will be sent to the Legislature and the finalized version will be posted as a separate link on the Commission website.

If you would like to request a hard copy of the final DPC annual report for 2003, please call (916) 776-2290, or e-mail Commission staff at dpc@citlink.net.

DPC Annual Report on Land and Easement Acquisitions in the Delta Primary Zone

Commission staff maintains a report on the acres of land in the Delta Primary Zone that have been acquired in fee title by public and non-profit entities, as well as acres that have been protected by conservation and agricultural easements. Staff updates this report annually; the report contains both cumulative information on all acreage acquired or protected since 1993, and information on new acquisitions and easements that occurred over the course of the previous years.

The staff report indicates that public and nonprofit land ownership in the Primary Zone has increased from 35,324 acres to 83,704 acres since 1993; 739 of these acres were acquired in fee title in 2003. Also in 2003, 978 acres of private lands were put under agricultural or habitat conservation easement, bringing the total Primary Zone acreage under easement to 12,252, up from 11,274 acres under easement at the end of 2002.

The draft report for 2003 is available from the Commission's website, www.delta.ca.gov, from the link for the January 2004 meeting. Staff reports for 2001 and 2002 are also available from the website, and are accessible from the January meeting links from 2002 and 2003, respectively. For hard copies of the 2003 or past reports, call (916) 776-2290, or e-mail Commission staff at dpc@citlink.net.

Landowners Wanted for Delta Rice-Growing Research Project

There are numerous benefits that growers can realize when they cultivate rice. In addition to the market value of the commodity and the benefits that accrue to foraging waterfowl during the late fall and winter months, there are also potential water quality and sediment control benefits that can be realized.

Ducks Unlimited, in cooperation with San Joaquin County RCD, will be holding two grower meetings to discuss rice production in the Delta, and to solicit three growers to grow 100 acres of rice each for the next two years. This activity would be undertaken as part of a research project, which will measure the ability of rice production to improve the water quality of agricultural discharges. The project would pay for the conversion of the 100-acre plots for rice production, and the selected growers would work with Ducks Unlimited and UC Davis in setting up water quality research plots on a portion of the planted acreage. Ducks Unlimited will make its rice specialist available for production advice during the two-year project period.

If you would like more information on this project, or are interested in participating, plan on attending one of the two grower meetings in the Delta. If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, you may also contact project manager Olen Zirkle, Ducks Unlimited, at (916) 852-2000 or ozirkle@ducks.org.

Grower Meetings:

Thurs., January 29, 2004, 9 a.m.— noon

Jean Harvie Community Center (Classroom)

14273 River Road

Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Thurs., January 29, 2004, 1:30—4:30 p.m.

Roberts Union Farm Center

4925 West Howard Road

Stockton, CA 95206

Governor Appoints New Resources Secretary

On November 11, 2003, Governor Schwarzenegger announced his appointment of Michael Chrisman as the new Secretary of California's Resources Agency. Mr. Chrisman replaces former Secretary Mary Nichols, who was appointed by former Governor Gray Davis.

Mr. Chrisman served as the regional manager for Southern California Edison since 1996, but held several positions in State government prior to that. In addition to undersecretary for the Dept. of Food and Agriculture and deputy secretary for Operations/Legislation for the Resources Agency, he served as president of the Fish and Game Commission under former Governor Pete Wilson. Mr. Chrisman is also past president of Agricultural Leadership Associates, past director of the CA Farm Bureau Federation, and former advisor to the Assembly's Republican Caucus on agriculture, water, and environmental issues. He currently oversees a family farming operation in Tulare County.

The Commission congratulates Mr. Chrisman on his appointment, and looks forward to working with him on Delta agricultural, environmental, recreational, and CALFED issues in the future!

Annual Duck Days Festival Celebrates Waterfowl and Habitat

The Yolo Basin Foundation will be sponsoring the tenth annual Duck Days festival. This event celebrating waterfowl and its agricultural and wetland habitats has an emphasis on local field trips, various workshops, and family-oriented activities such as crafts, nest box building, and petting of mallard ducklings.

This year's festival has been downsized somewhat, so pre-registration is required. Reservations for the field trips will be made on a first-come, first-serve basis. With the exception of the 10th Anniversary Duck Days reception on Friday, February 13, and the Duck Days Banquet, all events will take place on Saturday, February 14, at the Dept. of Fish and Game's Yolo Wildlife Area headquarters in South Davis.

More information about the festival, including a schedule of field trips and workshops as well as a registration form, can be found on the Yolo Basin Foundation's website at www.yolobasin.org, or by calling (530) 757-3780.

10th Annual Duck Days Celebration

Note: Pre-registration is required for Saturday events; the cost is \$20 per person, with children under 16 free when accompanied by an adult.

Friday, February 13, 5:30—7:30 p.m. Duck Days Welcome Reception, featuring student wildlife art. Davis Art Center, 1919 F Street, Davis 95617

Saturday, February 14, all day Numerous workshops, and field trips originating from, Yolo Wildlife Area headquarters on East Chiles Road, near Davis.

Saturday, February 14, 6 p.m. California Waterfowl Association's Duck Days Banquet. Davis Senior Center, 646 A Street, Davis 95616. *Tickets required; call Bonnie DeWit for tickets or more information, (530) 758-9615.*

